Offer of ISMA for Supply of Sugar

2786. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association offered to supply sugar @ Rs. 1300/- per quintal which could be sold in retail @ Rs. 14.50 to Rs. 15.00 per kg.;

(b) whether the ISMA has blamed traders and politician for high prices ; if so, Government's reaction thereon :

(c) whether Government have accepted the offer of ISMA ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d) It was for the Indian Sugar Mills Association to have contacted retail agencies like Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar, private retailers, etc. to arrange retail sale of freesale sugar through them. The Indian Sugar & General Industry Export-Import Corporation Ltd. (a Corporation jointly promoted by the Indian Sugar Mills Association and the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories) did, in fact, operate a scheme for sale of imported sugar through consumer outlets, such as Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar & private shops, in Delhi, Bombay, etc., on the condition that the retail price would not exceed Rs. 14.50 per kg.

Decontrol of Sugar Prices

2787. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugar industry has urged Government to completely decontrol sugar prices ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reaction of Government thereon ; and

(d) whether Government propose to keep in view the interests of the weaker sections of the society while taking any decision to decontrol sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Divergent views have been expressed by the two apex bodies of the sugar isdustry, namely Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF). Whereas Indian Sugar Mills Association has made a demand for complete decontrol of sugar prices, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories have opposed the decontrol of sugar.

(c) and (d) The present policy of partial control, with dual pricing system, is being continued.

Foodgrains in the FCI Godowns

2788. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantum of foodgrains including wheat and rice lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies as on 31st October, 1994 and since when these stocks are lying in these godowns ;

(b) the quantity of the foodgrains lying in the storage which has been fully/partially damaged and what is the estimate of losses caused ;

(c) whether Government propose to export/dispose of these stocks, if so, what are the plans of Government in this respect ;

(d) what are the reasons of having so much stocks in godowns, whether it is due to no demand of wheat and paddy in the national/international markets ;

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check this huge loss and whether the growers will also be advised to sow such crops which can be immediately sold in the market or can be exported ; and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) About 304.16 lakh MTs of foodgrains were in the Central Pool as closing stock on 30-10-1994. The details are as follows :—

(In Lakh MTs)

	With FCI (P)	With State Government/State Agencies (P)	Total (P)
Wheat	82.09	67.69	149.78
Rice	128.29	26.09*	154.38
Coarse Grains	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.

*Includes paddy in terms of rice procurred during kharif marketing season 1994-95 by State Agencies not yet taken over by FCI.

P—Provisional

While stocks of wheat had started building up from Rabi 1992-93 onwards, the build up of rice with the FCI and Government agencies has been from Kharif 1993-94 market year onwards.